

MERCED



C O U N T Y

ANNUAL

REPORT OF AGRICULTURE

2004





DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

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A. G. Kawamura, Secretary
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And

The Honorable Board of Supervisors County of Merced

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Demitrios O. Tatum
County Executive Officer

In accordance with the provisions of Sections 2272 and 2279 of the California Food and Agricultural Code, I am pleased to submit the 2004 Merced County Report of Agriculture. This report summarizes the acreage, production, and gross value of Merced County's agricultural commodities.

For the first time, Merced County agriculture surpassed the 2 billion dollar mark in gross production value of agricultural commodities. With a gross production value of \$2,365,494,000 in 2004, Merced County agricultural commodities increased \$447,263,000 (23.32%) from 2003 production values.

This increase is due largely to an increase in price on some of our leading commodities such as: milk, almonds, chickens, and livestock. The price of milk (the county's number one commodity) increased by \$3.44/cwt for market milk and \$3.38/cwt for manufacturing milk. This along with a slight increase in production raised the overall value by \$185,930,000, a 33.4% increase over the 2003 value. The value of the almond crop increased \$104,074,000 over the 2003 value. This represents a 49.1% increase in value which allowed almonds to recapture the number two commodity spot. Chickens dropped to third position even though they had a price increase of \$0.13/lb, with an overall increase in value of \$70,496,000.

The 2004 growing season was also very conducive to high yield production with both cotton and processing tomatoes reaching all time highs of 3.42 bales/acre and 41.0 tons/acre respectively. Egg production in Merced County also increased, due to major laying facility expansions facilitated by favorable market conditions over the last two years as well as reduced production in Southern California.

These figures represent gross returns to the producer and do not take into account the costs of production, marketing, or transportation. Net income of the producer is not reflected in this report.

I wish to express my sincere thanks to our growers and ranchers, the staff of the University of California Cooperative Extension, industry representatives and the members of my staff who assisted in the gathering of data. In addition, I would like to thank Mark Smith, Mike Quinn, Jeannie Nelson and Maryann Harding. Without their hard work, the publication of this report would have been impossible.

Respectfully submitted,

David A. Robinson
Agricultural Commissioner

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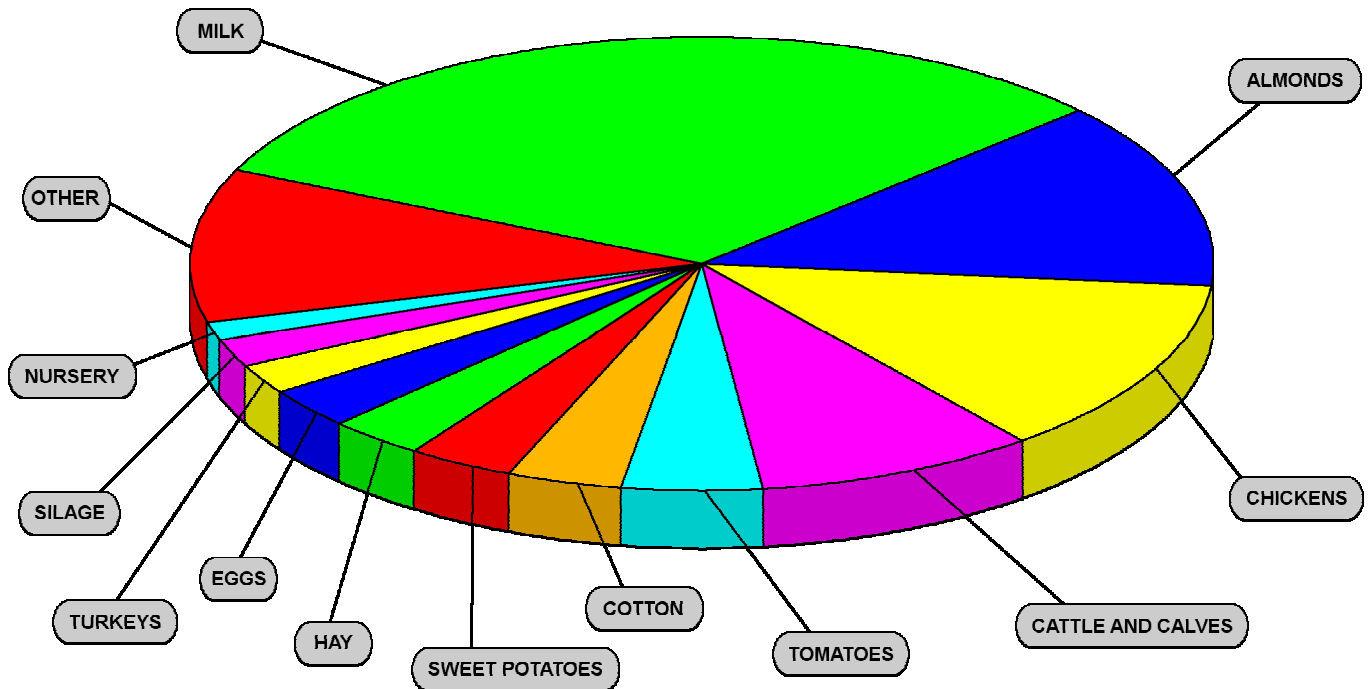
TWELVE LEADING FARM COMMODITIES 2004

1.	MILK ⁽¹⁾	\$742,785,000	(1)
2.	ALMONDS (KERNEL BASIS)	\$315,935,000	(3)
3.	CHICKENS	\$300,558,000	(2)
4.	CATTLE AND CALVES	\$209,041,000	(4)
5.	TOMATOES ⁽²⁾	\$105,098,000	(5)
6.	COTTON (LINT)	\$85,478,000	(8)
7.	SWEET POTATOES	\$79,182,000	(6)
8.	HAY (ALFALFA)	\$71,500,000	(7)
9.	EGGS, CHICKEN (MARKET)	\$68,508,000	(9)
10.	TURKEYS	\$50,043,000	(10)
11.	SILAGE (CORN)	\$47,862,000	(11)
12.	ALL NURSERY PRODUCTS	\$30,354,000	(12)

(The numbers in parenthesis denotes the 2003 ranking)

(1) Includes Market and Manufacturing.

(2) Includes Market and Processing Tomatoes.



FIELD CROPS

CROP	YEAR	ACRES HARVESTED	PRODUCTION			VALUE	
			PER ACRE	TOTAL	UNIT	PER UNIT	TOTAL
BARLEY	2004	5,143	2.40	12,361	TON	\$120.53	\$1,490,000
	2003	3,615	2.74	9,921		\$112.44	\$1,116,000
BEANS (DRY LIMA)	2004	911	1.32	1,199	TON	\$766.51	\$919,000
	2003	871	1.29	1,122		\$748.62	\$840,000
BEANS (DRY OTHER)	2004	2,532	1.11	2,817	TON	\$603.05	\$1,699,000
	2003	3,050	0.90	2,743		\$580.53	\$1,593,000
CORN (GRAIN) ⁽¹⁾	2004	6,319	5.83	36,832	TON	\$133.26	\$4,908,000
	2003	6,173	4.84	29,872		\$129.55	\$3,870,000
COTTON (LINT)	2004	69,205	3.42	236,500	500 LB BALE	\$361.43	\$85,478,000
	2003	63,685	2.78	177,297		\$384.77	\$68,218,000
COTTON (SEED)	2004	---	1.37	94,161	TON	\$170.00	\$16,007,000
	2003	---	0.97	61,966		\$190.00	\$11,773,000
HAY (ALFALFA)	2004	79,481	6.96	553,288	TON	\$129.23	\$71,500,000
	2003	86,067	7.25	623,999		\$110.56	\$68,986,000
HAY (GRAIN) ⁽²⁾	2004	31,206	2.66	83,022	TON	\$80.60	\$6,691,000
	2003	29,855	2.83	84,369		\$69.98	\$5,904,000
HAY (SUDAN)	2004	3,449	2.89	9,963	TON	\$94.25	\$939,000
	2003	3,840	2.61	10,034		\$82.40	\$827,000
MISCELLANEOUS FIELD CROPS ⁽³⁾	2004	2,655	---	---	---	---	\$955,000
	2003	1,928	---	---		---	\$390,000
PASTURE (IRRIGATED)	2004	59,000	---	59,000	ACRE	\$140.00	\$8,260,000
	2003	59,000	---	59,000		\$135.00	\$7,965,000
PASTURE (OTHER)	2004	560,000	---	560,000	ACRE	\$20.00	\$11,200,000
	2003	560,000	---	560,000		\$17.00	\$9,520,000
RICE	2004	4,810	2.49	11,978	TON	\$272.61	\$3,265,000
	2003	4,807	3.46	16,612		\$254.34	\$4,225,000
SILAGE (ALFALFA)	2004	---	1.05	83,455	TON	\$39.69	\$3,312,000
	2003	---	1.25	107,584		\$24.00	\$2,582,000
SILAGE (CORN)	2004	75,810	26.40	2,001,734	TON	\$23.91	\$47,862,000
	2003	78,812	26.42	2,081,849		\$21.51	\$44,772,000
SILAGE (OTHER) ⁽⁴⁾	2004	56,654	12.59	713,552	TON	\$16.47	\$11,756,000
	2003	55,906	13.20	738,154		\$15.46	\$11,414,000
STRAW ⁽⁵⁾	2004	---	---	2,763	TON	\$41.61	\$115,000
	2003	---	---	2,949		\$42.21	\$124,000
STUBBLE (PASTURE)	2004	---	---	13,512	ACRE	\$22.00	\$297,000
	2003	---	---	14,631		\$20.00	\$293,000
SUGAR BEETS	2004	4,485	34.00	152,490	TON	\$39.38	\$6,005,000
	2003	3,377	33.00	111,441		\$41.63	\$4,639,000
WHEAT	2004	12,489	2.27	28,327	TON	\$120.07	\$3,401,000
	2003	17,596	1.57	27,590		\$119.36	\$3,293,000
TOTAL	2004	974,149					\$286,060,000
	2003	978,582					\$252,345,000

- (1) For 2004, 2003: Includes Human Consumption Corn (but not Fresh Market Corn).
- (2) For 2004: Includes Barley, Forage, Oat, and Wheat Hay.
For 2003: Includes Forage, Oat, and Wheat Hay.
- (3) For 2004, 2003: Includes Oat Grain and Safflower.
- (4) For 2004: Includes Oat, Rye, Sorghum, Sudan, Wheat, and Winter Forage.
For 2003: Includes Clover, Oat, Rye, Sorghum, Sudan, Wheat, and Winter Forage.
- (5) For 2004, 2003: Includes Straw from Barley, Bean (Dry), Oat, Rice and Wheat.



VEGETABLE CROPS

CROP	YEAR	ACRES HARVESTED	PRODUCTION			VALUE	
			PER ACRE	TOTAL	UNIT	PER UNIT	TOTAL
BEANS, LIMA (FREEZER)	2004	2,763	1.71	4,724	TON	\$460.06	\$2,173,000
	2003	1,579	1.82	2,872		\$450.52	\$1,294,000
MELONS (CANTALOUPE)	2004	3,184	678.02	2,158,818	40LB CTN	\$4.70	\$10,146,000
	2003	4,078	563.43	2,297,656		\$6.16	\$14,154,000
MELONS (OTHER) ⁽¹⁾	2004	984	19.91	19,596	TON	\$248.93	\$4,878,000
	2003	1,097	16.67	18,288		\$231.37	\$4,231,000
MISCELLANEOUS VEGETABLES ⁽²⁾	2004	3,766	---	---	---	---	\$14,796,000
	2003	3,211	---	---		---	\$14,240,000
SWEET POTATOES	2004	10,084	12.25	123,529	TON	\$641.00	\$79,182,000
	2003	9,537	13.63	130,024		\$685.92	\$89,186,000
TOMATOES (MARKET)	2004	10,383	1,104.55	11,468,563	25LB CTN	\$6.37	\$73,101,000
	2003	9,856	1,103.71	10,878,191		\$7.47	\$81,298,000
TOMATOES (PROCESSING)	2004	15,600	41.01	639,681	TON	\$50.02	\$31,997,000
	2003	16,621	34.42	572,113		\$52.01	\$29,754,000
TOTAL	2004	46,764					\$216,275,000
	2003	45,979					\$234,157,000

⁽¹⁾ For 2004: Includes Honeydew, Korean Melon, Mixed Melons, and Watermelon.

⁽²⁾ For 2004: Includes Asparagus, Beans (Green), Broccoli, Cabbage, Cauliflower, Cucumber, Eggplant, Garlic, Leafy Lettuce, Okra, Onion, Organic Vegetables, Oriental Vegetables, Peas, Pepper (Market Bell, Processed Bell and Chile), Pumpkin, Radish, Spinach, Squash, Sunflower, Tomatillo, and Tomato (Pole).

For 2003: Includes Asparagus, Beans (Green), Broccoli, Cabbage, Cauliflower, Cucumber (Pickle), Eggplant, Garlic, Leafy Lettuce, Okra, Onion, Organic Vegetables, Oriental Vegetables, Peas, Pepper (Market Bell, Processed Bell and Chile), Pumpkin, Radish, Spinach, Squash, Tomatillo, and Tomato (Pole).



FRUIT AND NUT CROPS

CROP	YEAR	ACRES HARVESTED	PRODUCTION			VALUE	
			PER ACRE	TOTAL	UNIT	PER UNIT	TOTAL
ALMONDS (HULLS)	2004	---	---	134,615	TON	\$83.77	\$11,276,000
	2003	---	---	141,497		\$76.16	\$10,776,000
ALMONDS (KERNEL BASIS)	2004	86,370	0.80	68,681	TON	\$4,600.00	\$315,935,000
	2003	85,476	0.81	69,236		\$3,060.00	\$211,861,000
APRICOTS	2004	1,272	6.16	7,835	TON	\$287.78	\$2,255,000
	2003	1,544	4.68	7,224		\$277.00	\$2,001,000
FIGS (DRY)	2004	3,092	0.92	2,852	TON	\$1,936.98	\$5,524,000
	2003	3,758	1.02	3,843		\$1,407.08	\$5,408,000
GRAPES (RAISIN TO WINE) ⁽¹⁾	2004	---	---	---	TON	---	---
	2003	133	9.93	1,321		\$104.00	\$137,000
GRAPES (RAISIN)	2004	750	1.81	1,357	TON	\$1,194.19	\$1,620,000
	2003	959	2.09	2,004		\$600.00	\$1,203,000
GRAPES (WINE)	2004	10,729	7.78	83,485	TON	\$251.46	\$20,993,000
	2003	11,366	9.76	110,932		\$261.75	\$29,036,000
MISCELLANEOUS ⁽²⁾	2004	2,738	---	---	---	---	\$14,532,000
	2003	2,401	---	---		---	\$11,304,000
NECTARINES	2004	115	8.19	942	TON	\$527.28	\$497,000
	2003	149	9.98	1,486		\$363.55	\$540,000
PEACHES (CLINGSTONE)	2004	3,310	16.88	55,870	TON	\$241.46	\$13,491,000
	2003	2,694	19.29	51,954		\$232.52	\$12,080,000
PEACHES (FREESTONE)	2004	1,799	20.12	36,200	TON	\$219.38	\$7,942,000
	2003	1,869	20.59	38,486		\$219.14	\$8,434,000
PISTACHIOS	2004	4,068	1.48	6,012	TON	\$2,892.14	\$17,388,000
	2003	4,272	0.27	1,158		\$2,600.00	\$3,010,000
PLUMS, DRIED	2004	1,929	0.62	1,190	TON	\$1,025.14	\$1,220,000
	2003	2,064	3.09	6,377		\$750.08	\$4,784,000
STRAWBERRIES	2004	377	9.84	3,710	TON	\$890.19	\$3,302,000
	2003	252	9.33	2,351		\$940.40	\$2,211,000
WALNUTS (ENGLISH)	2004	5,919	1.55	9,170	TON	\$1,206.74	\$11,066,000
	2003	6,050	1.40	8,443		\$1,113.96	\$9,405,000
TOTAL	2004	122,468					\$427,040,000
	2003	122,987					\$312,191,000

(1) For 2004: Grapes (Raisin to Wine) is now included in Miscellaneous Fruit and Nut.

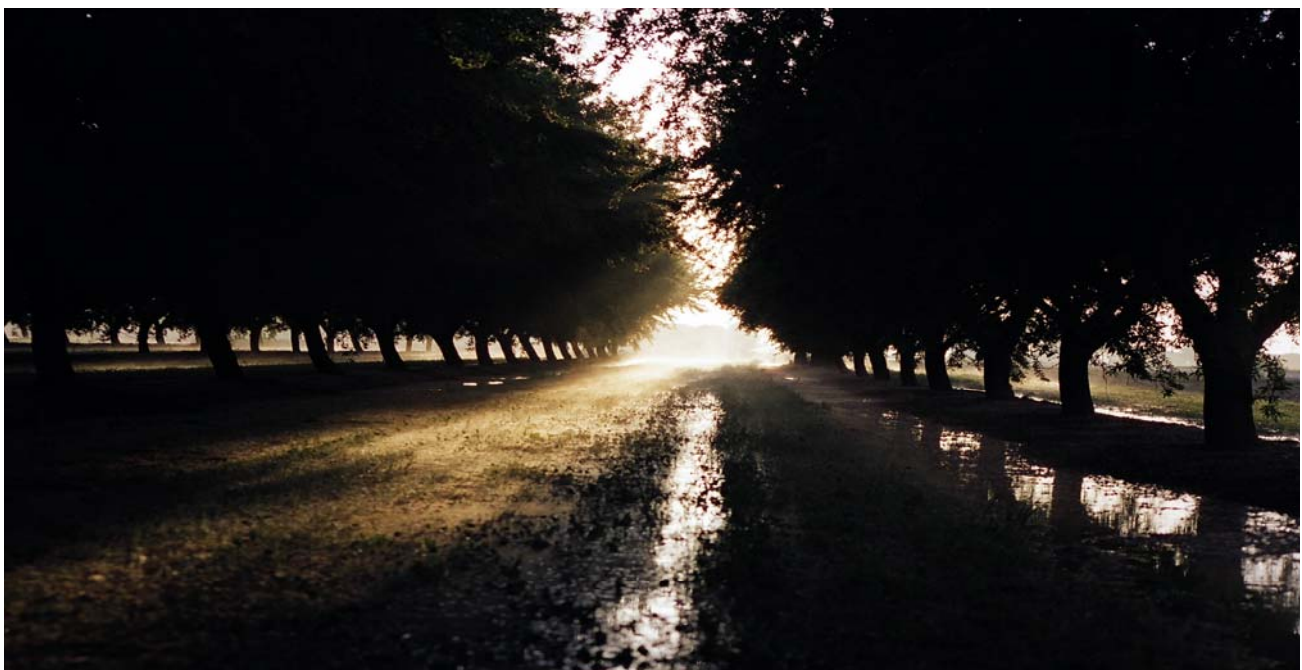
(2) For 2004: Includes Apple, Blueberry, Cane Berry, Cherry, Citrus, Fig (Cannery, Freezer and Fresh Market), Fruit Juice, Grape (Frozen and Raisin to Wine), Jujube, Kiwi, Olive, Organic Fruit and Nut, Peach (Fresh Market), Pear, Pecan, Persimmon, Plum and Plumcot.

For 2003: Includes Apple, Blueberry, Cane Berry, Cherry, Citrus, Fig (Cannery, Freezer and Fresh Market), Fruit Juice, Grape (Frozen and Table), Jujube, Kiwi, Organic Fruit and Nut, Peach (Fresh Market), Pear, Pecan, Persimmon, Plum and Plumcot.



FRUIT AND NUT ACREAGE PLANTING

CROPS	YEAR 2004		YEAR 1999	
	BEARING	NON-BEARING	BEARING	NON-BEARING
ALMONDS	86,382	7,666	77,461	5,002
APPLES	203	0	966	0
APRICOTS	1,352	0	2,040	32
BERRIES	273	0	292	0
CHERRIES	335	3	316	66
FIGS	3,446	0	3,123	0
GRAPES (Raisin)	834	0	1,354	0
GRAPES (Table)	124	0	423	0
GRAPES (Wine)	10,729	314	14,886	559
JUJUBE	10	10	0	0
KIWI	33	0	27	0
MANDARINS	9	0	17	0
NECTARINES	139	15	181	1
OLIVES	12	0	60	0
ORANGES	50	2	47	0
PEACHES (Clingstone)	3,685	143	3,640	38
PEACHES (Freestone)	1,827	161	1,944	200
PEARS	13	0	17	0
PECANS	37	5	42	10
PERSIMMON	2	0	0	0
PISTACHIOS	4,628	76	4,448	154
PLUMS	74	17	75	5
PLUMS (Dried)	1,947	50	2,374	347
PLUOT	72	0	0	0
POMEGRANATE	12	0	0	0
WALNUTS (English)	5,919	508	5,196	473
TOTAL	122,147	8,970	118,929	6,887



SEED CROPS

CROP	YEAR	ACRES HARVESTED	PRODUCTION			VALUE	
			PER ACRE	TOTAL	UNIT	PER UNIT	TOTAL
SEED CROPS ⁽¹⁾	2004	1,888	---	---	---	---	\$873,000
	2003	2,318	---	---	---	---	\$1,283,000
TOTAL	2004	1,888					\$873,000
	2003	2,318					\$1,283,000

- ⁽¹⁾ For 2004: Includes Certified, Common, and Phytosanitary Seed from Artichoke, Barley, Bean (Blackeye), Cabbage, Cauliflower, Corn, Cotton, Lettuce, Mizuna, Oat, Onion, Pepper (Jalapeno), Rye, Squash, Tomato, Watermelon, and Wheat.
For 2003: Includes Common and Phytosanitary Seed from Alfalfa, Artichoke, Barley, Cabbage, Carrot, Lettuce, Lima Bean, Oat, Onion, Rye, Squash, Tomato, Watermelon, and Wheat.



OTHER AGRICULTURE

CROP	YEAR	PRODUCTION		VALUE	
		TOTAL	UNIT	PER UNIT	TOTAL
ALMOND (SHELLS) ⁽¹⁾	2004	54,953	TON	\$21.59	\$1,186,000
	2003	57,676		\$11.77	\$679,000
FIREWOOD ⁽²⁾	2004	22,749	CORD	\$108.44	\$2,467,000
	2003	29,699		\$97.92	\$2,908,000
FUEL (COGENERATION) ⁽³⁾	2004	49,050	TON	\$32.00	\$1,570,000
	2003	12,475		\$31.00	\$387,000
MANURE ⁽⁴⁾	2004	531,053	TON	\$4.59	\$2,438,000
	2003	890,038		\$3.52	\$3,134,000
TOTAL	2004				\$7,660,000
	2003				\$7,107,000

- ⁽¹⁾ For 2004, 2003: For Animal Bedding.
⁽²⁾ For 2004: Includes Orchard Prunings and Removal for Firewood. (Recorded in cords).
For 2003: Orchard Removal (Recorded in cords).
⁽³⁾ For 2004: Includes Orchard Prunings and Orchard Removal for Fuel (Recorded in Dry Tons).
For 2003: Includes Orchard Prunings and Orchard Removal (Recorded in Dry Tons).
⁽⁴⁾ For 2004, 2003: Includes Livestock and Poultry Manure.

NURSERY PRODUCTS

CROP	YEAR	ACRES HARVESTED	PRODUCTION			VALUE	
			PER ACRE	TOTAL	UNIT	PER UNIT	TOTAL
ALL NURSERY PRODUCTS ⁽¹⁾	2004	1,920	---	---	---	---	\$30,354,000
	2003	1,440	---	---	---	---	\$30,404,000
TOTAL	2004	1,920					\$30,354,000
	2003	1,440					\$30,404,000

⁽¹⁾ For 2004: Includes Budwood, Cane Berries, Christmas Trees, Deciduous Fruit and Nut Trees, Dried Flowers, Grapevines, Greenhouse Plants, Ornamental Plants, Ornamental and Shade Trees, Pits and Cuttings, Turf, and Vegetable Transplants. The separate production and value are not shown to avoid disclosing individual operations.

For 2003: Includes Budwood, Cane Berries, Christmas Trees, Deciduous Fruit, Dried Flowers, Grapevines, Greenhouse Plants, Nut Trees, Ornamental Plants, Ornamental and Shade Trees, Other Vegetable Plants, Pits and Cuttings, Strawberry Plants, Sweet Potato Plants, Tomato Plants and Turf. The separate production and value are not shown to avoid disclosing individual operations.

BEE INDUSTRY

CROP	YEAR	PRODUCTION		VALUE	
		TOTAL	UNIT	PER UNIT	TOTAL
BEESWAX	2004	43,054	LB	\$1.30	\$56,000
	2003	54,128		\$1.25	\$68,000
BULK BEES ⁽¹⁾	2004	75,000	LB	\$8.59	\$644,000
	2003	89,600		\$8.23	\$737,000
HONEY ⁽²⁾	2004	2,798,500	LB	\$0.80	\$2,239,000
	2003	3,518,350		\$1.37	\$4,820,000
POLLINATION ⁽³⁾	2004	160,229	COLONY	\$54.79	\$8,779,000
	2003	177,477		\$46.69	\$8,286,000
QUEENS ⁽⁴⁾	2004	26,500	EACH	\$6.13	\$162,000
	2003	37,200		\$7.41	\$276,000
TOTAL	2004				\$11,880,000
	2003				\$14,187,000



⁽¹⁾ For 2004: Includes Bees Sold as Bulk Bees, Nuclei, and Packaged Bees.
For 2003: Includes Bees Sold as Nuclei and Packaged Bees.

⁽²⁾ For 2004: Honey produced by 50,000 resident colonies.
For 2003: Honey produced by 55,000 resident colonies.

⁽³⁾ For 2004, 2003: Pollination colonies include all required to pollinate crops grown in Merced County.

⁽⁴⁾ For 2004, 2003: Includes Mated Queens and Queen Cells.

AQUACULTURE

CROP	YEAR	PRODUCTION		VALUE	
		TOTAL	UNIT	PER UNIT	TOTAL
FISH ⁽¹⁾	2004	1,302,000	LB	\$2.13	\$2,778,000
	2003	1,214,680		\$1.98	\$2,405,000
TOTAL	2004				\$2,778,000
	2003				\$2,405,000

⁽¹⁾ For 2004: Includes Catfish, Silver Carp, Sturgeon and Trout.
For 2003: Includes Catfish, Silver Carp, Striped Bass, Sturgeon and Trout.

LIVESTOCK AND POULTRY PRODUCTION

CROP	YEAR	NUMBER OF HEAD	PRODUCTION		VALUE	
			LIVE WEIGHT	UNIT	PER UNIT	TOTAL
CATTLE AND CALVES ⁽¹⁾	2004	284,816	2,233,984	CWT	\$93.57	\$209,041,000
	2003	233,540	1,864,691		\$90.45	\$168,661,000
CHICKENS (FRYERS AND BROILERS)	2004	92,029,540	486,434,139	LB	\$0.62	\$300,558,000
	2003	89,998,599	467,967,750		\$0.49	\$230,062,000
CHICKENS (OTHER) ⁽²⁾	2004	---	---	LB	---	---
	2003	1,239,611	5,338,250		\$0.12	\$663,000
GOATS ⁽³⁾	2004	---	---	HEAD	---	---
	2003	6,000	6,000		\$91.22	\$547,000
HOGS AND PIGS ⁽⁴⁾	2004	---	---	CWT	---	---
	2003	12,596	22,294		\$51.21	\$1,142,000
LIVESTOCK (MISCELLANEOUS) ⁽⁵⁾	2004	18,613	---	---	---	\$2,054,000
	2003	---	---	---	---	---
POULTRY (MISCELLANEOUS) ⁽⁶⁾	2004	223,620	---	---	---	\$1,153,000
	2003	61,670	---	---	---	\$540,000
SHEEP AND LAMBS	2004	33,010	49,012	CWT	\$98.24	\$4,815,000
	2003	35,987	49,604		\$90.53	\$4,491,000
TURKEYS	2004	3,009,626	79,701,111	LB	\$0.63	\$50,043,000
	2003	2,998,556	76,550,539		\$0.63	\$48,436,000
TOTAL	2004	95,599,225				\$567,663,000
	2003	94,586,559				\$454,542,000

⁽¹⁾ For 2004: Includes Cull Cows and Bulls, Calves and Replacement Heifers (for Dairy and Beef); Stocker Cattle.
For 2003: Includes Cull Cows and Replacement Heifers (for Dairy and Beef); Beef Calves, and Stocker Cattle.

⁽²⁾ For 2004: Chickens (Other) are now included in Poultry (Miscellaneous).
For 2003: Includes Meat Layers and Pullets.

⁽³⁾ For 2004: Goats are now included in Livestock (Miscellaneous).

⁽⁴⁾ For 2004: Hogs and Pigs are now included in Livestock (Miscellaneous).

⁽⁵⁾ For 2004: New Category Including Goats, Hogs, and Pigs.

⁽⁶⁾ For 2004: Includes Chukar, Pheasant, Chicken Pullets, and Squab.
For 2003: Includes Chukar, Ostriches (Domestic and Slaughter Birds), Pheasant, and Squab.

LIVESTOCK AND POULTRY PRODUCTS

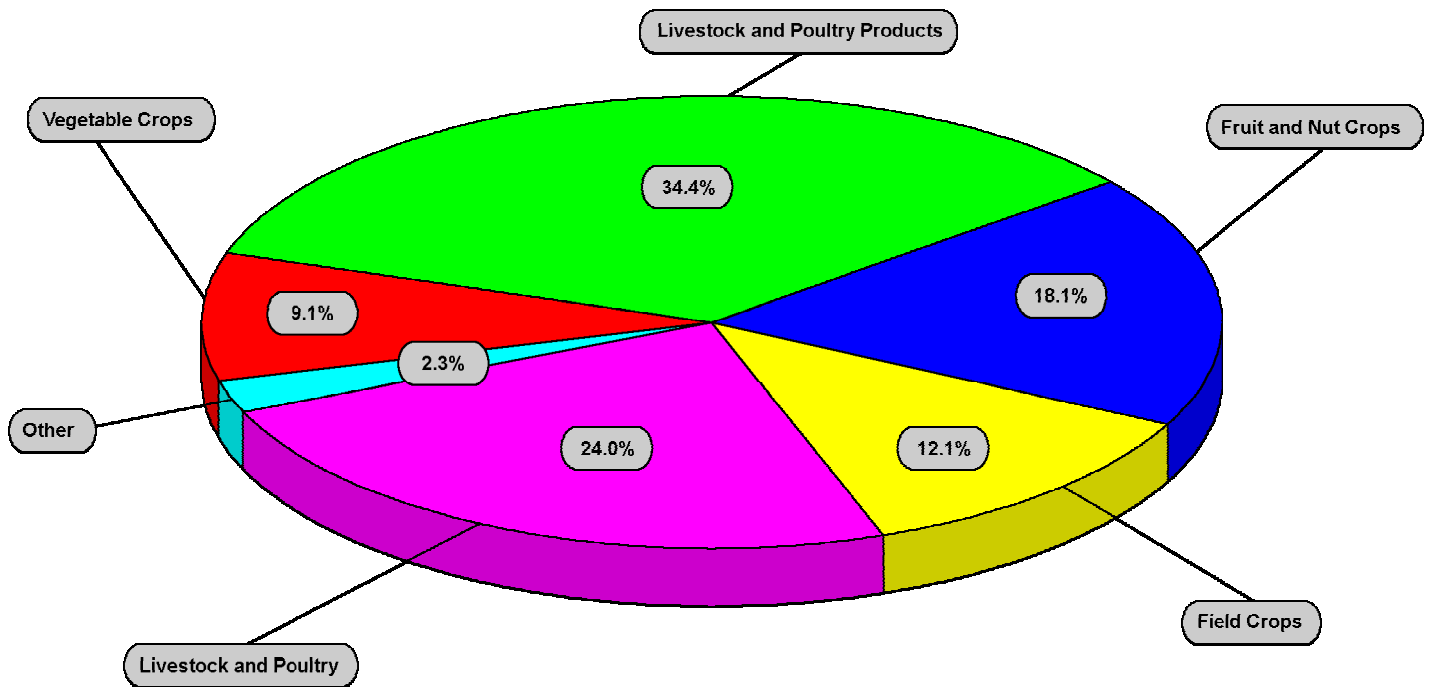
CROP	YEAR	PRODUCTION		VALUE	
		TOTAL	UNIT	PER UNIT	TOTAL
EGGS (OTHER) ⁽¹⁾	2004	4,360,561	EACH	\$0.55	\$2,414,000
	2003	4,849,279		\$0.56	\$2,713,000
EGGS, CHICKEN (MARKET)	2004	105,397,050	DOZN	\$0.65	\$68,508,000
	2003	70,266,870		\$0.69	\$48,484,000
MILK (GOAT)	2004	33,503	CWT	\$30.69	\$1,028,000
	2003	44,850		\$31.51	\$1,413,000
MILK (MANUFACTURING)	2004	300,519	CWT	\$15.20	\$4,568,000
	2003	358,992		\$11.82	\$4,243,000
MILK (MARKET)	2004	49,845,825	CWT	\$14.81	\$738,217,000
	2003	48,602,598		\$11.37	\$552,612,000
WOOL	2004	228,800	LB	\$0.77	\$176,000
	2003	200,814		\$0.72	\$145,000
TOTAL	2004				\$814,911,000
	2003				\$609,610,000

⁽¹⁾ For 2004, 2003: Includes Eggs other than Chicken Eggs.



COMMODITY VALUE COMPARISON

COMMODITIES	2004	1994	1984	1974
AQUACULTURE	\$2,778,000	\$1,185,000	---	---
BEE INDUSTRY	\$11,880,000	\$5,305,000	\$3,409,000	\$1,576,000
FIELD CROPS	\$286,060,000	\$245,794,000	\$178,231,000	\$112,475,000
FRUIT AND NUT CROPS	\$427,040,000	\$257,883,000	\$152,154,000	\$60,212,000
LIVESTOCK AND POULTRY PRODUCTION	\$567,663,000	\$204,887,000	\$188,782,000	\$68,143,000
LIVESTOCK AND POULTRY PRODUCTS	\$814,911,000	\$359,410,000	\$228,987,000	\$75,986,000
NURSERY PRODUCTS	\$30,354,000	\$14,923,000	\$9,039,000	\$4,056,000
OTHER AGRICULTURE	\$7,660,000	\$8,273,000	---	---
SEED CROPS	\$873,000	\$2,035,000	\$1,473,000	\$1,335,000
VEGETABLE CROPS	\$216,275,000	\$152,024,000	\$77,952,000	\$35,368,000
TOTAL	\$2,365,494,000	\$1,251,719,000	\$840,027,000	\$359,151,000



2004 SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE REPORT

PEST PREVENTION

The California Food and Agricultural Code mandates pest prevention programs to prevent the introduction and spread of pests in California. Pest prevention involves Pest Exclusion, Pest Detection, Pierce's Disease Control, and the Federal Phytosanitary Certification Program.

Pest Exclusion Program:

Pest Exclusion is the first line of defense to prevent the introduction of pests, injurious to agriculture, that are not of common occurrence in Merced County.

A total of 5,077 shipments of incoming plant material were inspected in 2004. Shipments are inspected at United Parcel Service, United States Post Offices, Federal Express and trucking terminals. 24 shipments were rejected, 4 for the presence of significant agricultural pests. Three shipments were infested with Red Imported Fire Ant, considered an "A"-Rated pest of agricultural importance under active eradication in California. One shipment contained unidentified "Q"-Rated plants (pests of unknown agricultural importance not known to occur in California). The other 20 rejections were for other live pests, material not properly certified, or improper container markings.



Pierce's Disease Control Program:

To prevent the introduction of the Glassy-winged Sharpshooter (GWSS) into Merced County, all shipments of nursery stock from infested counties are inspected. GWSS has the ability to spread **Pierce's Disease** rapidly among grape vines with devastating results. 1,142 shipments of nursery stock from infested counties were inspected in 2004. All inspections were negative for the presence of GWSS during 2004.

Federal Phytosanitary Certification Program:

This program prevents the spread of injurious pests from Merced County to foreign counties through inspection and certification of exported plants and plant commodities. In 2004, 4,099 export shipments were inspected and issued **Phytosanitary Certificates**.

Pest Detection Program:

Pest Detection uses visual inspection and insect traps that target specific exotic insects of high agricultural and economic importance.

The trapping program in Merced County targeted the following pests:

Apple Maggot (<i>Rhagoletis pomonella</i>)	European Corn Borer (<i>Ostrinia nubilalis</i>)
European Pine Shoot Moth (<i>Rhyacionia buoliana</i>)	Gypsy Moth (<i>Lymantria dispar</i>)
Glassy-winged Sharpshooter (<i>Homalodisca coagulata</i>)	Japanese Beetle (<i>Popillia japonica</i>)
Khapra Beetle (<i>Trogoderma granarium</i>)	Mediterranean Fruit Fly (<i>Ceratitidis capitata</i>)
Melon Fly (<i>Dacus cucurbitae</i>)	Mexican Fruit Fly (<i>Anastrepha ludens</i>)
Oriental Fruit Fly (<i>Dacus dorsalis</i>)	Sweet Potato Weevil (<i>Cylas formicarius elegantulus</i>)
Vine Mealybug (<i>Planococcus ficus</i>)	

A total of 1,873 pest detection traps were placed in Merced County and inspected a total of 19,139 times during the 2004 trapping season.

PEST ERADICATION

The **Pest Eradication Program** endeavors to eliminate infestations of significant agricultural pests with limited distribution before they are able to cause ongoing economic cost to California agriculture.

Ongoing detection and eradication efforts continued during 2004 for Pink Bollworm, Red Imported Fire Ant, Purple Mustard, and Water Hyacinth.

Ongoing detection efforts continue for Camelthorn, Carolina Horse Nettle, and Hydrilla.

Successful eradication projects include Sweet Potato Weevil and Banana Waterlily. None have been detected since the end of their respective eradication projects.

The Pink Bollworm is a significant cotton pest with eradication efforts consisting of a State operated detection trapping program in conjunction with County enforcement of the host-free period from January 1 through March 10. In 2004, 69,205 acres were trapped for Pink Bollworm. No Merced County growers were found to be in violation of the host-free period requirement during 2004.

Merced County's Red Imported Fire Ant (RIFA) eradication program started in November 2001. At the height CDFA had 4,300 acres under treatment. Very good progress is being made toward eradication. At the end of 2004, 600 acres were still under treatment with the rest of the acreage under intensive post treatment survey. County personnel surveyed and trapped an additional 74 locations. 6,225 baited trap inspections were made.

BIOLOGICAL CONTROL

The **Biological Control (Biocontrol) Program** uses natural enemies to suppress pest populations to economically and environmentally acceptable levels. Once the biocontrol agent becomes established it is self-perpetuating, reducing the need to use pesticides. The following are pests found in Merced County and their Biocontrol Agents.

PEST	ORGANISM
Ash Whitefly (<i>Siphoninus phillyreae</i>)	Parasitoid Wasp (<i>Encarsia inaron</i>)
Grapeleaf Skeletonizer (<i>Harrisina brillians</i>)	Parasitic Fly (<i>Ametadoria misella</i>) Parasitic Wasp (<i>Apanteles harrisinae</i>) Virus (<i>WGLS Granulosis</i>)
Itallian Thistle (<i>Carduus sp.</i>)	Seed-Head Weevil (<i>Rhinocyllus conicus</i>)
Klamath Weed (<i>Hypericum perforatum</i>)	Leaf Beetle (<i>Chrysolina quadrigemina</i>)
Milk Thistle (<i>Silybum marianum</i>)	Seed-Head Weevil (<i>Rhinocyllus conicus</i>)
Puncture Vine (<i>Tribulus terrestris</i>)	Seed Weevil (<i>Microlarinus lareynii</i>) Stem Weevil (<i>Microlarinus lypriformis</i>)
Red Gum Lerp Psyllid (<i>Glycaspis brimblecombei</i>)	Parasitoid Wasp (<i>Psyllaephagus bliteus</i>)
Russian Thistle (<i>Salsola sp.</i>)	Case-bearer Moth (<i>Coleophora klimeschiella</i>) Russian Thistle Borer (<i>Coleophora parthenica</i>)
Yellowstar Thistle (<i>Centaurea solstitialis</i>)	False Peacock Fly (<i>Chaetorellia succinea</i>) Flower Weevil (<i>Larinus curtus</i>) Hairy Weevil (<i>Eustenopus villosus</i>) Rust Fungus (<i>Puccinia jaceae var. solstitialis</i>) Seed-Head Gall Fly (<i>Urophora sirumaseva</i>) Seed-Head Weevil (<i>Bangasternus orientalis</i>)



This is an encarsia wasp that parasitizes the ash whitefly. The ash whitefly is a pest of many types of trees in California.

ORGANIC FARMING

Merced County has 52 registered growers of organic commodities. These growers farmed 1,863 acres to produce organic alfalfa, almonds, apricots, Asian pears, cherries, nectarines, peaches, pecans, pistachios, plums (fresh and dried), pluots, raisins, walnuts, beans, squash, leafy lettuce, legumes, sweet potatoes, and tomatoes. There are also 5 facilities producing organic chicken eggs and milk.

EXPORTED COMMODITIES

Alfalfa Hay	Pistachios	Rye Hay
Almonds	Propagative Stock	Strawberry Nursery Stock
Garlic	Prunes	Sudan Hay
Oat Hay	Radicchio	Tomatoes
Onion Seed	Raspberry Nursery Stock	Walnut Burls
Pecans		Walnuts

EXPORTS GO TO THESE COUNTRIES

Algeria	Greece	Netherlands
Argentina	Guatemala	New Zealand
Australia	Honduras	Norway
Austria	Hong Kong	Philippines
Belgium	India	Poland
Brazil	Indonesia	Russian Federation
Bulgaria	Israel	Saudi Arabia
Canada	Italy	Singapore
Canary Islands	Japan	South Africa
China	Jordan	Spain
Colombia	Korea, Republic of	Sweden
Costa Rica	Kuwait	Switzerland
Czech Republic	Latvia	Taiwan
Denmark	Lebanon	Thailand
Ecuador	Lithuania	Trinidad & Tobago
Egypt	Luxembourg	Tunisia
El Salvador	Malaysia	Turkey
Estonia	Melilla	United Arab Emirates
France	Mexico	United Kingdom
Germany	Morocco	Venezuela



MERCED COUNTY AGRICULTURAL FACTS *

- 81.5% of the land area in Merced County is farmland.
- There are a total of 2,964 farms, averaging 339 acres, for a total of 1,006,127 acres of farmland in Merced County.
- The total county acreage is 1,234,364 acres.
- The average age of Merced County farmers is 54.9 years old.

* Above data is from the USDA 2002 California Census of Agriculture.

TOP FIVE AGRICULTURAL PRODUCING COUNTIES IN CALIFORNIA AND THE WORLD

County	Rank	Gross Value	Total County Acres	Top Commodity	Value
Fresno	1	\$4,691,224,200	3,816,144	Grapes	\$592,099,000
Tulare	2	\$4,039,524,000	3,087,340	Milk	\$1,367,136,000
Monterey	3	\$3,392,309,318	2,126,050	Lettuce	\$950,534,000
Kern	4	\$3,142,481,400	5,210,217	Grapes	\$521,870,000
Merced	5	\$2,365,494,000	1,234,364	Milk	\$742,785,000



STAFF

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Sealer of Weights and Measures**
David A. Robinson

**Assistant Agricultural Commissioner
Sealer of Weights and Measures**
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Deputy Director of Weights and Measures
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STRIVING FOR EXCELLENCE